



# 1MC March Newsletter USSVI Marblehead Base

USSVI (781) 631-1324

## Lost Boats February:

USS Pearch	(SS-176)	3-03-42
USS Grampus	(SS-207)	3-05-43
USS Seawolf	(SS-28)	3-12-20
USS Triton	(SS-201)	3-15-43
USS Kete	(SS-369)	3-20-45
USS Trigger	(SS-237)	3-22-45
USS Skate I	(SS-23)	3-25-15
USS Tullibee	(SS-284)	3-26-44

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government."



## Secretary's Report February 2004

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS  
INC.

### MARBLEHEAD BASE SECRETARY'S REPORT February 2, 2004

Upcoming dates to remember:

- April 3 Thresher memorial at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
- April 19 Patriots Day parade in Lexington
- April 24 Sub vets Birthday Ball at Gerry 5 Marblehead
- April 30- May 1 Sub vets 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend at Groton, CT

## Individual Highlights:

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## Base Officers 2002

**Commander Don Femino**  
USS Pickerel (SS-524) 1960  
46 Pierson Street  
Beverly, MA 01915  
(978) 922-5439  
Femino@rcn.com

**Vice Commander Stan Dixon**  
USS Grenadier (SS-525) 1960  
16 South Pond Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
(978) 465-3948  
NESVFL@aol.com

**Secretary Tom Shannon**  
USS TREPANG (SSN-674) 1983  
15 Jackson Road  
Burlington, MA 01803  
(781) 229-2254  
trshannon674@hotmail.com

**Treasurer George LeBlanc**  
USS BANG (SS-385) 1968  
17 Mello Parkway  
Danvers, MA 01923  
(978) 774-4027

**Next Meeting Mar 1, 2002**  
1930 Hrs Gerry 5 Hall,  
Marblehead

## Call to Order

Commander Don Femino called the regular monthly meeting to order at 1951 hrs. He began the meeting with the reading of the Creed. The ship's bell was tolled for the lost boats in February. After the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, the 30 shipmates present sounded off with their names and their qual boats.

## Reports

The Secretary's report for the Annual Meeting was read and accepted. The Secretary's monthly and Base Financial reports were read and accepted.

## Old Business

Sub vets WWII Bay State North Christmas party recap was given by shipmate Bob McIntosh. It was reported in last month's minutes the dates of the USSV WWII Bat State East Chapter regional meeting would be March 19 & 20. The correct dates are March 20 & 21 on Nantucket Island. Marblehead Base members are invited to attend.

## New Business

Commander Femino reported that that VA is looking for Carbarnero sailors that were on board during months of 1965 to 1968 and endured SHAD testing. District 1 Commander Nominations - Anyone who would like to be considered for this position notify Don Femino. Don also mentioned the nominations for national awards.

## Communications

Webmaster Rick Wetmore received a request from a prospective new member. Jim Milligan is from Bedford, MA and served on the USS George Washington SSBN-598. Commander Femino read an e-mail from Albany Base looking for floats for the parade at the National Convention.

## For The Good of The Order

Treasurer George LeBlanc issued a dues notice to the members. Those who have not paid their dues yet are considered delinquent and must renew their membership. 1MC editor Dave Campbell reported he will be moving to Maine in a few months and said he will no longer be able to publish the newsletter.

## Adjourn

Corning Pevear gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tom Shannon  
Base Secretary

## Lloyd Bucher, Commander of Captured Spy Ship, Dies *By Bart Barnes*

*"I was completely and hopelessly outgunned," Cmdr. Bucher later told the Naval Court of Inquiry. "I was*

Lloyd M. "Pete" Bucher, 76, the commanding officer of the U.S. spy ship Pueblo who was captured with his crew off the coast of North Korea in 1968, died Jan. 28 at a nursing home in Poway, Calif., near San Diego. No cause of death was given.

Cmdr. Bucher and his crew -- 82 men in all -- survived 11 months of brutal captivity at the hands of the North Koreans. He was beaten and tortured into signing a confession that he was "captured while carrying out espionage activities after intruding deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." The Pueblo's capture and Cmdr. Bucher's confession triggered a major international incident. They came as yet another assault against a military establishment, already facing criticism at home for the war in Vietnam, which was then at its peak.

The Pueblo incident provoked a major standoff between the United States and North Korea and lasted until two days before Christmas 1968, when Cmdr. Bucher and his men were released. But North Korea kept the ship, which it subsequently promoted as a tourist attraction.

At home, Cmdr. Bucher faced a Naval Court of Inquiry that recommended he be tried by court-martial. To Navy traditionalists, he had committed the cardinal sin of giving up his ship without firing a shot and had disgraced the Navy by confessing to the enemy.

Members of his crew saw it differently.

"Commander Pete Bucher led his crew through 11 months of spirited resistance during their captivity at the hands of the North Koreans" is the way the USS Pueblo Veteran's Association describes it on its Web site. In the end, Navy Secretary John H. Chaffee decided against a court-martial, declaring that the Pueblo crew "had suffered enough." Cmdr. Bucher was allowed to retire from the Navy in 1973.

He spent his remaining years in a ranch house in Poway, where he grew avocados, studied art and painted. He received royalties of \$90,000 from his book, "Bucher: My Story" (1970), and his watercolor paintings of landscapes, seascapes and animals sold for as much as \$500 apiece. It took years for the ignominy of the Pueblo incident to wear off, but it finally did. "It's sort of all of a sudden I don't have AIDS anymore," Cmdr. Bucher told the Associated Press in 1998.

Lloyd Mark Bucher was born near Pocatello, Idaho, and orphaned as a child. He spent his early boyhood being shuffled between adoptive parents in Idaho and relatives in California.

After seeing the film "Boys Town" in 1940, he wrote to Father Edward Flanagan, founder of the Nebraska home for troubled children, and asked to live there. Flanagan reportedly sent him a train ticket, and he lived there from 1941 to 1945. He then enlisted in the Navy and graduated from the University of Nebraska.

In 1953, he was commissioned an officer in the Navy, serving initially aboard submarines. Later, he was a logistics officer and then an operations officer with a submarine flotilla.

When he took command of the Pueblo in Japan, Cmdr. Bucher said later, he was told by an admiral, "Don't start a war out there." His mission was to monitor ship movements and intercept messages of North Koreans, who were considered to be allies of the North Vietnamese in the war with the United States.

On Jan. 23, 1968, the lightly armed Pueblo was attacked by two North Korean torpedo boats, one on each side of its bow. "I was completely and hopelessly outgunned," Cmdr. Bucher later told the Naval Court of Inquiry. The Pueblo was shelled by the North Korean vessels; one crew member was killed and 11 were wounded.

Sending a member of his crew to man the Pueblo's gun, he said, "would have meant certain death for him because he would have been walking within 30 yards of a mount of [North Korean] machine guns. . . . I saw no point in senselessly sending people to their death."

Instead, Cmdr. Bucher surrendered his ship, which was escorted to the harbor of Wonsan, where it docked.

There, according to the Pueblo veterans' Web site, the crew, "bound and blindfolded, was removed and led in front of a crowd of North Korean civilians which was yelling and screaming insults. . . . The Hispanic crew members were being attacked by the soldiers because they were thought to be South Koreans."

Over the next few months, crew members said, North Korean soldiers beat them with lumber, burned them on radiators and kicked their teeth out. Cmdr. Bucher said he was kicked and thrown up against walls by his captors. He said he confessed when the North Koreans said they would take members of his crew, one by one, and kill them in front of him. "I'll sign," Cmdr. Bucher said, according to the Los Angeles Times.

### Foot Note:

In 1989, the Pentagon agreed to give Cmdr. Bucher and his crew members prisoner-of-war medals.

Until then, the government had insisted that they were detainees, not POWs, because the United States and North Korea were not at war.

Survivors include his wife, Rose, and two sons.

*Last year Cdr Bucher discussed the attack on the Pueblo to various Marblehead groups*

## View From the Bridge



*As I sit here, in the middle of February, freezing my tail off wondering when this winter is going to end, I have a severe brain cramp for this View from the Bridge. I can understand why so many of our shipmates spend the winter in Florida.*

*We have a few things coming up in the next 3 months which should get us perking again. The first of which is the Bay State East Chapter's March meeting on Nantucket Island. Those of you who are planning to attend have already made arrangements and I'm sure that you are looking forward to sailing from Hyannis from the Steamship Authority dock on 3/21/04 at 0915 hrs. Warren Valero is again hosting the trip and looking forward to seeing many Marblehead Base members on Nantucket.*

*At our March 1 meeting, we will start to get serious about the planning for our April 24 Submarine Birthday Ball and the other April events, Lexington's Patriots Day Parade and the Thresher Memorial Ceremony. I will also have information concerning the Groton Base's events planned for the SubVets 40th Anniversary Celebration. There are many interesting things to attend and do on that*

*weekend (Golf outing, Return to Sub School and Reception, submarine tour). The dates are April 29th to May 1st, 2004. These activities should make it a weekend to remember. They have a deadline for application to the events of April 16, 2004.*

*Something to think about very seriously is the status of the Award Winning 1MC. Past Commander and 1MC originator, Dave Campbell, announced at our last meeting that he will be leaving the area soon (June or July?) and we will need someone to step up to the enormous task of preparing and publishing our Newsletter. I'm sure that Dave will give assistance and instructions as to whoever volunteers for this undertaking. So please think about this need.*

*See you all on March 1.*

### Port Visit

USS NORMANDY (CG 60) will be in Boston 17-21 March and available for public and private tours. Public visiting 1300-1600 on 17, 18, 19 March. Black Falcon Pier, Boston. For **Navy Leaguers**, we might be able to arrange a special tour on Sunday afternoon, 21 March. If interested, contact Event Chairman, Bob Shaughnessey at [bobcod@comcast.net](mailto:bobcod@comcast.net) or 978-263-8494 with name(s), your phone and e-mail address. Once arranged, he will confirm with you.

For Active, Reserve and Retired Military, USS CONSTITUTION plans a Military Appreciation Day for the Bunker Hill Day harbor cruise in May. A lottery for invitations will be held from among interested military. Details will be forwarded soon.

## Russian ballistic missile test fails By Vladimir Isachenkov



MOSCOW — A Russian ballistic missile self-destructed moments after taking off from a submarine Wednesday, the second failed test launch in two days of maneuvers meant to display the country's military might.

President Vladimir Putin didn't mention the failure, but said Russia would soon get new strategic weapons that would protect the country for years to come. He also said the Moscow might develop a missile defense system.

Putin didn't offer specifics about the new weapons — presumably a new generation of missiles — but said they will be “capable of hitting targets continents away with hypersonic speed, high precision and the ability of wide maneuver.”

The massive exercises have been described as the largest in more than 20 years, and come less than a month before a presidential election Putin is expected to win. They are broadly seen as part of campaign efforts aimed at playing up Putin's image as a leader determined to restore Russia's military power and global clout.

But two launch failures in as many days were an embarrassment for Putin and further tarnish the image of the Russian military, which has been plagued by chronic funding shortages, low morale and frequent crashes and accidents.

The missile launched from the Karelia submarine on Wednesday veered from its flight path less than two minutes after take-off, triggering its self-destruct system, Russian Navy spokesman Capt. Igor Dygalo told The Associated Press.

No one was hurt, he said in a telephone interview.

That came a day after a missile failed to launch from the Novomoskovsk submarine. Russian officials and media had conflicting statements about the reason for the failure. The naval chief, Adm. Vladimir Kuroyedov, ended up saying Tuesday that the navy had never planned a real launch and successfully conducted what he described as an imitation “electronic” one.

Many Russian newspapers assailed what they described as a clumsy cover-up of Tuesday's failed launch, saying that Kuroyedov's statement resembled official lies about the August 2000 sinking of the Kursk nuclear submarine in the Barents Sea, which killed all 118 aboard and hurt the navy's prestige.

“Apparently they decided not to smear President Vladimir Putin's participation in the exercise with

negative information,” the Kommersant newspaper said.

Putin had gone to the Barents Sea on board the giant Arkhangelsk submarine Monday to observe maneuvers set to involve numerous missile launches and flights of strategic bombers.

Putin, who donned naval officer's garb complete with white scarf and gloves for his two-day submarine cruise, changed into the green uniform of an officer of the Strategic Missile Forces on his visit Wednesday to the Plesetsk launch pad in northern Russia.

In Plesetsk, Putin watched the successful launch of the Molniya-M booster rocket, which carried a Kosmos military satellite into orbit. Via video hookup, he also watched the trouble-free liftoff of an RS-18 ballistic missile from the Baikonur cosmodrome, which Russia leases from the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

Russian state-run television channels, which are lavishly covering the daily activities of Putin, ran footage of the president watching the launches and congratulating officers in Plesetsk, but said nothing about the failed launches.

Russian television stations broadcast Putin's statements Wednesday in which he promised that the nation's strategic forces would soon receive new potent weapons. Putin said their development wasn't aimed against the United States.

“Modern Russia has no imperial ambitions or hegemonist strivings,” he said.

He said that he had informed President Bush about Russia's latest military achievements, and added that the Russian military would provide more information to its American counterparts.

Putin also said that Russia would continue to research defenses against ballistic missiles and might build a missile shield in the future, the Interfax and ITAR-Tass news agencies reported.

Those moves are a response to U.S. efforts to develop and deploy missile defenses that would protect against attack from ballistic missiles armed with weapons of mass destruction.

State Meeting USSV WWII will be at the USS Massachusetts in Fall River

Date: April 18, 2004

Time: 1100 for the meal 1230 for the state meeting

Cost: \$15.25 includes entrance fee to the park

Send checks to Ed Costa 3 Stephanie Street Burlington, MA 01803-1321

## VFW Seething Over Super Bowl Halftime Entertainment

*Kansas City, MO, Feb. 3, 2004*--The Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is outraged with U.S. media organizations for ignoring the blatant and disgusting desecration of the U.S. flag by rock singer Kid Rock during Sunday's Super Bowl Halftime Show. During the halftime performance, Kid Rock slit a hole in the flag and wore it as a poncho.

Edward S. Banas Sr., Voluntown, Conn., said the media have made much of Janet Jackson's raunchy and nearly lewd act, but they have ignored Kid Rock's inappropriate and disrespectful use of the American flag.

"While MTV and CBS have issued apologies for the Janet Jackson incident, they have yet to address Kid Rock's disgusting use of an American flag as a costume prop. The 1.6 million members of the VFW agree that Kid

Rock's stunt was in poor taste and extremely disrespectful to the members of our armed forces who everyday pledge their allegiance--and their life--to our flag," Banas said. "I find it unconscionable that the entire news media, along with CBS, the NFL and MTV, have yet to address this."

The VFW, now in its 104th year, has more than 9,000 posts worldwide. Through a system of service officers, the VFW assists all veterans and their families in obtaining veterans' entitlements and other services. As an organization of former servicemen and women, the VFW remains committed to America's national security and the well being of those still serving on active duty and in the National Guard and the Reserves.

**What are we doing?????**

## Funds for Cash-Strapped Guard, Reserve Families

WASHINGTON — Families of many deployed Guard and Reserve troops are hurting financially, and many of their state legislators are moving to make that a thing of the past.

On Wednesday, five lieutenant governors held a news conference to announce a drive to create Military Family Relief Funds in states across the nation.

"We cannot allow the citizens of our states who are serving their country to fall into financial ruin while they are in Iraq, facing harm ... while they are protecting us," said Calif. Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante.

Each fund is designed to provide grants to families of National Guard and Reserve soldiers on active duty who are facing reduced income and financial hardships. Grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 will help military families in need to cover expenses such as rent, utilities and medical expenses.

Many National Guard and Reserve soldiers earn less in active duty than they do at their regular place of employment. Also, some private and public employers do not always make up the difference between soldiers' military pay and their civilian pay.

The model for other states to follow is the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund, championed by Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn and signed into law in February 2003.

"The force in Iraq is estimated to be about 40 percent reservists and Guard members .... This is unheard of in our country; unprecedented," Quinn said. "A lot of times, the military pay is quite a bit less than the civilian pay that

someone was making."

Quinn offered an example of one soldier whose wife and three sons saw a 70 percent cut in his pay.

"It's pretty hard to make ends meet when you have such a decline in your family income."

Bustamante said that 10 percent to 20 percent of the 9,000 California families with a deployed servicemember are seeking some form of emergency assistance.

A check-off box on the current Illinois income tax return allows individuals to make tax-deductible donations directly to the fund. Begun with state and voluntary support, \$829,000 has been distributed in grants to more than 1,800 military families in Illinois, so far.

South Carolina, California and Pennsylvania are initiating legislative efforts to allow private donations through income-tax check-offs for grants to the military families in need.

The total number of National Guard and Reserves called to active duty at this time is 189,859.

Quinn has created a Website, [Operation Home Front](#), describing how citizens on the home front can help soldiers fighting around the world. The site has registered more than 4.3 million hits, Quinn said.



**The media have made much of Janet Jackson's raunchy and nearly lewd act, but they have ignored Kid Rock's inappropriate and disrespectful use of the American flag.**





## Captain Kangaroo took his final orders...

Captain Kangaroo died this week, (his birthday is 6/27/27). Some people have been a bit offended that Lee Marvin is buried in a grave alongside three and four star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (PVT) and service (USMC). Nothing else. Here's a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time. Why the heck does he rate burial with these guys? And what does that have to do with Captain Kangaroo? Well, here is the amazing answer. Most people don't know or don't remember the extent of his Corps experience. In a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces, often in rear-echelon posts where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher Naval award ... the Congressional Medal of Honor. If that is a surprising comment on the true character of the man, he credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery. Here is an excerpt of dialog from The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, when his guest was Lee Marvin. Johnny said, "Lee, I'll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima . . . and that during the

course of that action you earned the Navy Cross and were severely wounded." Marvin replied, "Yeah, yeah . . . I got shot square in the ass and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot about halfway up Suribachi. Bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys getting shot hauling you down. But, Johnny, at Iwo I served under the bravest man I ever knew. "We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross made mine look cheap in comparison. The dumb bastard actually stood up on Red Beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach. That sergeant and I have been lifelong friends. When they brought me off Suribachi we passed the Sergeant and he lit a smoke and passed it to me lying on my belly on the litter and said, 'Where'd they get you Lee?' I said 'Well Bob . . . if you make it home before me, tell Mom to sell the outhouse!' Johnny, I'm not lying . . . Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew." Sergeant Bob Keeshan . . . you and the world know him as "Captain Kangaroo." Are you thinking what I am? Kinda different from today's actors and entertainers in Hollywood, huh?

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*"To perpetuate the  
memory...."*

*We're on the Web!*

*See us at:*

[www.geocities.com/Marbleheadbase](http://www.geocities.com/Marbleheadbase)

### Up Coming Events

- March 1 - Marblehead Base Membership Meeting
- March 21/22 - USSVWWII Annual March Meeting in Nantucket (See flyer for details)
- April 24 - Marblehead Base Submarine Birthday Ball
- District 1 Meeting, Thresher Base, Portsmouth, NH
- April- Thresher Memorial Ceremony
- April- Thresher Base Submarine Birthday Ball
- 19- Patriots Day Parade, Lexington, MA
- May ? - Return to Sub School, Groton, CT (no info yet)
- May ?- Groton Base SubVets 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball (no info yet)
- May 31- Memorial Day Parade, Marblehead
- June 7- Memorabilia Night
- June 2-6- USSVWWII Bay State East Chapter Convention, Plymouth

### March 2004

S M T W T F S

	1	2	3	4	5	6
			USS Pearch (SS-176) 1942		USS Grampus (SS207) 1943	
7	8	9	10	11	12 USS Seawolf (SS-20) 1920	13
14	15 USS Triton (SS-201) 1943	16	17	18	19	20 USS Kete (SS- 369) 1945
21	22 USS Trigger (SS-237) 1945	23	24	25 USS Skate I (SS-23) 1915	26 USS Tullibee (SS-284) 1944	27
28	29	30	31			